Office of Public Affairs Media Relations Washington, DC 20420 (202) 273-6000 www.va.gov

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 12, 2007

VA Partnering with States to Help Injured Veterans Nicholson: More Veterans Helped as VA, States Strengthen Cooperation

WASHINGTON – To help severely injured service members receive benefits from their states when they move from military hospitals to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities in their communities, VA today announced expansion of a collaborative outreach program with states and territories.

After a four-month pilot with the state of Florida, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson expanded the program to all states while addressing a conference of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs in Alexandria, Va.

"This initiative is a promising extension of VA's own transition assistance for those leaving military service," said Nicholson. "It is also an opportunity to partner with the states to make long-term support possible for our most deserving veterans throughout the country."

Called "State Benefits Seamless Transition Program," the initiative involves VA staff located at 10 Department of Defense medical facilities. They will identify injured military members who will be transferred to VA facilities. VA staff will contact state veterans affairs offices on behalf of the veterans. The state offices, in turn, will contact the veterans to inform them about state benefits for them and dependent family members. Most states and territories offer a range of benefits to veterans.

"Connecting veterans with state benefits immediately upon their separation from military service is a challenge, and more so for those who have suffered serious injury," said John M. Garcia, president of the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA). "The State Benefits Seamless Transition Program opens a good line of communication and coordination between the Department of Defense, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the state departments of veterans' affairs."

NASDVA is an organization consisting of the top veterans affairs official in each state and territory. The association is a nexus for the exchange of information among the states, Congress, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the veteran service organizations.

Nicholson said this state-federal initiative will maintain an injured veteran's privacy and provide early access to additional benefits. The new national partnership between VA and the states is the result of a pilot project with the Florida State Department of Veterans' Affairs, which began in September 2006.

"I applaud VA for expanding nationwide this worthwhile pilot program for our severely injured servicemembers," said LeRoy Collins Jr., executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. "This new initiative will be of great value to state governments enhancing long-term support to their veterans and families."

				afe .	N - No Office - S - Shared Offices - V - VA Only	ldu		for VA
County	Name	Title	Veteran	Start Date	N - No S - She - V - V,	# Ofc Empl	Ofc	Ofc Hrs for VA work
	T Decision	JOI- e-l-	lv	11.1.05	lui 0		,	
Adair	TerryL Buckner	Chair	Yes	July 05	N - Comm Only	1	Comm	As assistance needed- clerical person does it
Adams	Holly Steeve	Clerk		April, 06	s		P.	6hr(5GA;1VA)
Allamakee	Heather Homewood	Director	Yes	Aug. 05	V	1	F	40
Appanoose	Wallace M. Carter	Director	Yes	7/1/2004		1	Р	Tues & Wed 9-1 Thurs 2-4:30
Audubon	Everett R Nelson	Director	Yes	4/1/1992	V	1	P	Tues 1-4pm Thurs 9-4pm On call anytime
Benton	Walter A Kollmorgen	Director	Yes	8/25/03	V	1	P	On call anytime Tues 8-12
Black Hawk	Bennie E Spain	Director	Yes	1985	V	4	F	8-4:30
Boone	Paul Ladd	Director	Yes	Oct-05	V	2	F	8-4:30 M-F
Bremer	Jan Heidemann	Admnistrator		Jul-06	V?	1	F	8-4:30 M-F
Buchanan	Patti Meyer	Adm Asst	No	12/15/1998	S?	1	F - ofc P - VA	37.5 week
Buena Vista		Clerk/VSO	N/Y		S/V	1	Р	Clerk 9-12 Tues-Thurs VSO 1 day
Butler	Steve Ulrichs	Director	Yes	Apr-01	S	1	Р	20 hours
Calhoun	Marlene Welander	Director	No ·	Dec-80	S	1	F - ofc P - VA	8-4:30 M-F Combined w/GA
Carroll	Ed Ohl	Director	Yes	Jan-03	V	1	Р	Part-time 9-12:30 M-F
Cass	Michael A Scheibeler	Director	Yes	Oct-93			F	3/4 time
Cedar	Patricia Hamann	Admin	No	8/15/2005	S	1	F - ofc P - VA	8-3:30 M-F Comb'd w/GA/HIPAA
Cerro Gordo	Rosetta Waychus	Director	Yes	5/1/2000	S	2	F - ofc P - VA	8am-4:30pm
Cherokee	Dana Evans	Director	Yes	1/1/2002	V	1	Р	Part time M&W 9:30- 2:30 12 hrs/week

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				afe	Office ared Off A Only	ldu:		for VA
County	Name	Title	Veteran	Start Date	N - No Office - S - Shared Offices - V - VA Only	# Ofc Empl	Ofc	Ofc Hrs for VA work
Chickasaw	Joe Sheehy	Director	Yes	July, 1996	V		Р	Part time 8-12 Tues- Thurs
Clarke	Peg Cummings	Adminstrator		Oct-05	S	1	F - ofc P - VA	8:30-4:30 M-F
Clay	Joan M Waller	Director	No	9/26/1988	V	1	F	8-4:30 M-F
Clayton	C.B. Siebrecht	Director	Yes	4/1/2005	V	1 Comm	P	Part time 8-12 12:30-4 Mon, Wed, Fri
Clinton	Ed Staszewski	Director	Yes	2003	V	1	Р	Part time Noon -4:30 M-F
Crawford	Louise Galbraith	Administrator	No	June, 1997	S	2	F - ofc P - VA	8-4:30 M-F
Dallas	Gary Petersen	Director	Yes	Jan, 2001	V	1	Р	Part time 8:30-3:30 T, W,T 8:30-11:30 F
Davis	Martin Shook	Director	Yes	Jan, 2000	V	1	Р	Part time M&Thurs 8- 111am
Decatur	Samatha Schaff	Adminstrator		Apr-06	S	1	F - ofc P - VA	8-4:30 M-F
Delaware	Peggy Petlon	Administrator	No	1/1/2005	S	2	F - ofc P - VA	8am-4:30pm M-F
Des Moines	Bob Housewright	Director	Yes	July, 1993	V	1	P	M-F 8:00-12:00 only help w/forms
Dickinson	Ernie Cupp	Director	Yes	1/12/2004	V	1	F	40
Dubuque	Charles Brimeyer	Director	Yes	May, 1995	V	3	F	M-F 8-4:30 - Adding part- time person
Emmet	Larry Sundall	Director	Yes	May, 1990	S		F - ofc P - VA	8-4:30 Combined offices M-F
Fayette	John Hintz	Director	Yes	5/1/2004		1	Р	Noon-4pm M-F
Floyd	Marci Hall-Jacobsen	Admn	No	Aug, 1994	?	1	F	M-F 8-3:30

				ate	N - No Office - S - Shared Offices - V - VA Only	Idu		Ofc Hrs for VA work
County	Name	Title	Veteran	Start Date	N - No S - Sh	# Ofc Empl	o ^j O	Ofc Hrs work
Franklin	L.H.Muller	Director	Yes	7/1/1997		1	Р	M,W,T 8:30-11:30
Fremont	Arthur V. Claiborne	Director	Yes	12/22/1997			Р	Mon&Fri 7:30-11:30 Home # posted on call 7days a week
Greene	Robert McConkie	Director	Yes	1964	N	Comm	No Hrs	On Request
Grundy	Norm Beu	Director	Yes	April, 1999	V		F	M-F 9-3
Guthrie	Darcia Robson	Clerk	No		V	1 Comm	Р	8-Noon M-F
Hamilton	Danny R Tague	Director	Yes	Apr-00	V	1 Comm	r P	8-Noon 12:30-4 T&W
Hancock	Al Jennings	Director	Yes	Nov-02	V	1 Comm	Р	9-1:30 T&T
Hardin	David D Roelfs	Director	Yes	7/1/1986	S	1	F - ofc P - VA	37.5 hours
Harrison	Royce Hildreth	Director	Yes	1/1/1985	V	1	Р	Mon-Tues 8-4
Henry	Sarah Kaufman	Secy f/Comm	No	1/1/2004	s	1 Comm	P	8-Noon 1-4 Mon & Thur
Howard	David Sauceda	Temp Dir	Yes		?	1	Р	7:30-3:30 T, W, T
Humboldt	Don Anderson	Admn			?	1	F	8-4:30 M-F
Ida	Winfred Schramm	Director	Yes	3/1/1996	V	1	Р	10-4 Tuesdays
Iowa	Tom Crosby	Director		Feb-06	S (RSVP)	1	Р	8-Noon M-F

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County	Name	Title	Veteran	Start Date	N - No (S - Sha - V - VA	# Ofc Empl	Ofc	Ofc Hrs for VA work
Jackson	Larry J Bramer	Director	Yes	Sep-97		1	Р	8-3:30 Thurs 7 hr wk authorized
Jasper	Nanci Deaton	Director	Yes	Apr-91	V	1	F:	8-4 M-F
Jefferson	Pat Frieberg	Clerk		4/1/2006	V	1 Comm	P	8-Noon M, W, T 1-7 T
Johnson	Leo Baier	Director	Yes	1/2/1994	V	1	Р	Perm Part-time 25 hr week
Jones	Deborah Schultz	Admn		4/1/2006	S?	1	F - ofc P - VA	8-4:30 M-F
<u> </u>			-					
Keokuk	Keith Blair	Director	Yes	Dec-05			Р	8-Noon M-F
Kossuth	James E Grandgenett	Director	Yes	Jul-04	V	11	P	8-N M-F 12:30-4:30 VV
Lee	Paul R Carroll	Director	Yes	8/16/2005	V	1	P	9-1 M-F Assisted by AM
Linn	Donald Tyne	Director	Yes	10/1/2000	S .	2	F - ofc P - VA	40 hours
Louisa	Dalph Stone	Chair	1	0+00	1	lc 0		This have
Lucas	Ralph Stone Richard K Jones	Director	Yes	Oct-02 3/1/2002		Com O	P	No hours M, W & F 10-Noon
Lyon	Denton L Olson	Director	Yes	2/1/1993			P	8:30-4:30 M-F
Madison	Kay M Billeter	Director	1.03	7/1/1978			P	M-F 12:30-4:30
Mahaska	Karie Foster		No	3/7/2005		1	P	8:30-12:30 M-F
Marion	Mike Kuhn	Director	Yes	Mar-02	S	1		8-4:30 M-F
Marshall	Ron Nauman	Director	Yes	2/9/2005	V	2	Р	8-1 M-F
Mills	Jim Goos	Director	Yes	Jul-03	S	1	F - ofc P - VA	40 hours
Mitchell	Verle Nickerson	Chair		July, 2003	N			No Office

				ate	N - No Office - S - Shared Offices - V - VA Only	Idu		Ofc Hrs for VA work
County	Name	Title	Veteran	Start Date	N - No S - Sh - V - V,	# Ofc Empl	Ofc	Ofc Hrs work
Monona	William W Gingles	Director	Yes	Oct-95	V	1	Р	Mon & Tues 10-2
Monroe	Diane Durian	Director	No	1/7/1985	S	. 1	F - ofc P - VA	8:00-4:00 M-F
Montgomery	Jerry Hansen	Director	Yes	Jan, 2006	V .	1	Р	8:30-11:30 1-4 M-F
Muscatine	David L Watson	Chair	Yes	Jul-90	V	1	Р	9-4 Mon Only
O'Brien	Deanna Akeson	Admn	No	Nov-98	٧	1	Р	9-4:30 T-W-T
Osceola	Tom McDougall	Director	Yes	Oct-05	V	1	Р	9-4:30 M-T
Page	Raymond Bryant	Director	Yes		V(no ofc)	1	F	9-5 M-F at Home
Palo Alto	Ronald F Hersom	Director	Yes	94	V	1	Р	30 hours
Plymouth	Martin Balmer	Director	Yes	07/01/99	V .	0	Р	Tues 12-4pm Thurs 8-12am
Pocahontas	Orene C. Cressler	Director	Yes	6/18/1997	S	1	F - ofc P - VA	8-4:30 M-F
Polk	David DeBolt	Director	Yes		V	3	F	
Pottawattamie	Darlene McMartin	Admnstrator	Yes	6/24/1991	S	3.5FTE	F - Ofc P - VA	40 hours
Poweshiek	Gene Zell	Director	Yes	4/1/1996	٧	1	Р	8-11 M-F
Ringgold	Wm Rusk	Director	Yes	Jan, 1985	V	1	Р	8-12 M-F
Sac	Peggy Dettmann	Director	No	Jan, 1989	S.	1	F Ofc P - VA	20 hr/wk
Scott	David Woods	Director	Yes	Sep-06	V	1	F	8:00-4:30 M-F
Shelby	William A Sorensen	Director	Yes	6/26/2005	V	1	Р	M, W & F 8-4:30
Sioux	Shane A Walter	Admnstrator	No	2/1/2005	S	2	F Ofc P - VA	8-4:30 M-F
Story	Brett McLain	Director	Yes	4/20/1999	S	1	F - ofc P - VA	8-4:30 M-F

County	Name	Title	Veteran	Start Dafe	N - No Office - S - Shared Offices - V - VA Only	# Ofc Empl	Ofc	Ofc Hrs for VA work
Tama	Elizabeth Ledvina	Director	Yes	6/15/2003			F - ofc P - VA	8-4:30
Taylor	William E Johnston	Chair	Yes	6/5/2001	N	0	Р	Meet once/month
Union	Nancy Sears	Adminstrator	No	June, 1993	V		Р	10 hrs/weekly Mon 8-1 Wed 8-1
Van Buren	Van Meek	Director	Yes	Long time ago	V	1	Р	10-3 Tues
Wapello	Scott Gray	Director	Yes	May, 2006	V	1	Р	M-F 8-12
Warren	Bud Reed	Director	Yes	Mar-00	V	1	F	8-4 M-F
Washington	Sue Rich	Exec Sec	No	Mar-80	s	1	P	8-1pm M-F Do GA also
Wayne	Harold N Greenlee	Director	Yes	Aug-03	V	1	P	9-Noon M&W
Webster	Jack Weiderholt	Director	Yes	Jul-03	V	1	Р	1-4 T-W-T
Winnebago	JackCaputo	Director	Yes	July, 2001	V	1	Р	18 hours
Winneshiek	Debra A Monson	Director	Yes	10/7/2004	S	1	Р	M-F 8-Noon 1-4
Woodbury	John Priestley	Director	Yes	* :	V	2	F	7:30-4 M-F
Worth	Eugene Ferden	Chair	Yes		N		Р	8-4 1st Wed of Month
Wright	Christine Oliver	Director	No	Oct-02	S	1.	F - Ofc P - VA	40 hours
Total					,			

Ofc

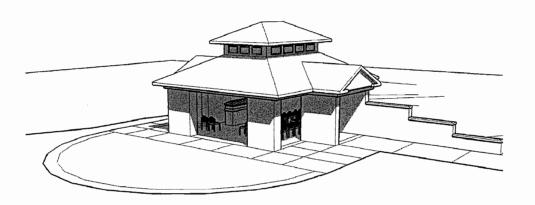
F-Ofc P-VA - Shared office opened full time so VA is part-time
Comm - County has commission only with a clerk doing work for them - No Director in office
This information provided by the Iowa Association of County Commissioners (IACCVA)

IOWA VETERANS CEMETERY

MASTER PLAN SUBMITTAL

State of Iowa DAS Project Number 5656.00 USDVA Project Number IA-04-01





COMMITTAL SERVICE SHELTER

REVISIONS
No. DESCRIPTION DATE



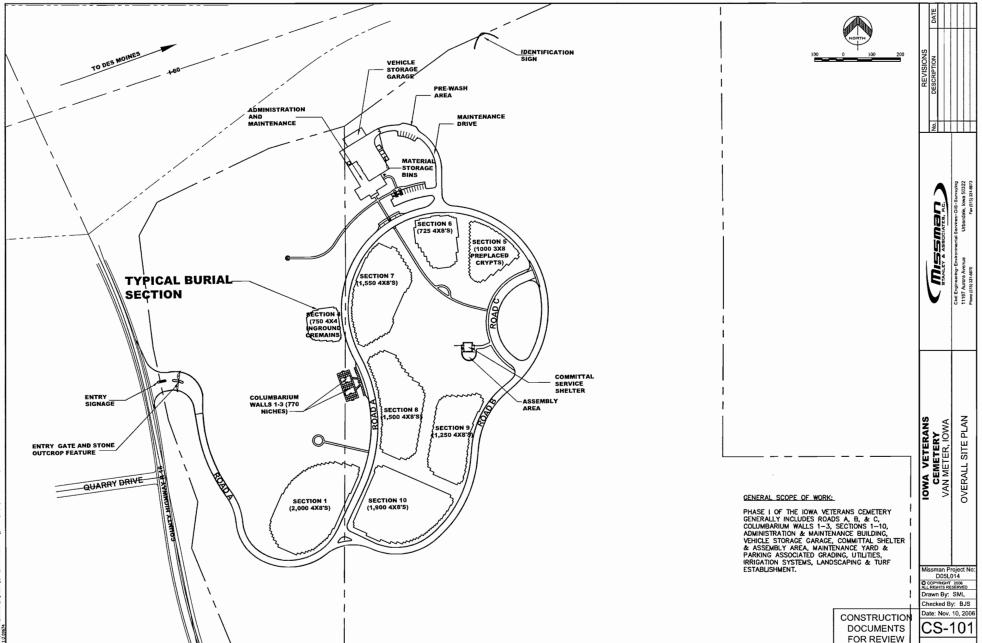


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ADMIN./MAINT. & COMMITTAL SHELTER

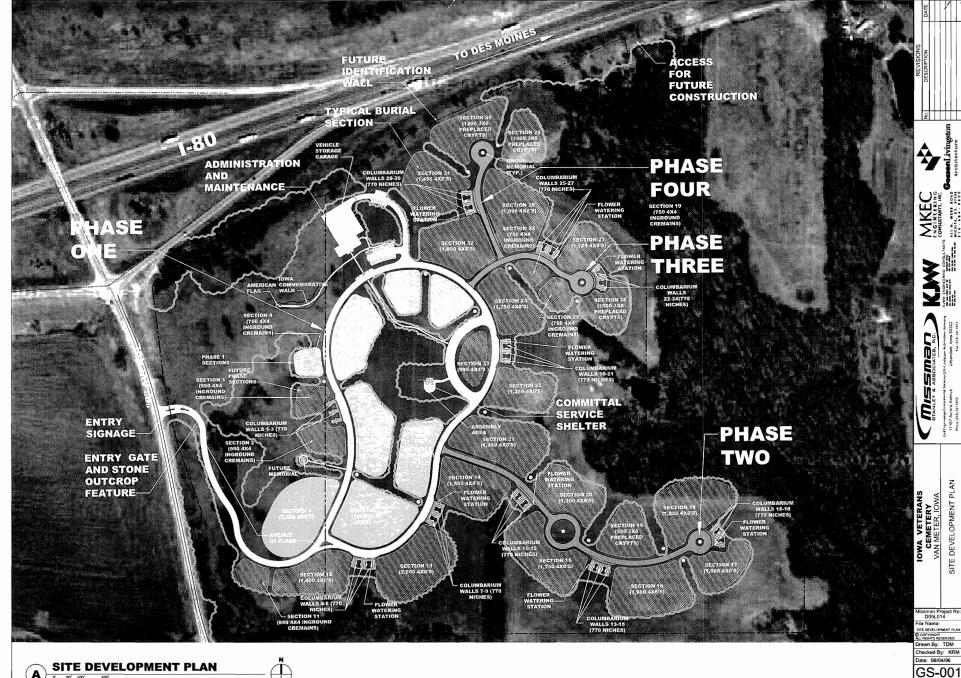
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Drawn By: Checked By:





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SITE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 0, 20, 100, 500,



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

			FY06	_	FY07 FY08		FY08		
<u>Line</u>			<u>Actual</u>		<u>Budget</u>		Dept. Request		Governor's Rec
1	lowa Dept. of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) V01 Appropriati	on							
2	Resources:	Φ	000 747	Φ	500 444	Φ	040 700	ው	040 457
3	Appropriation (V01)	\$	320,717	\$	522,114	\$	910,790	\$	813,457
4	Salary Adjustment	\$	11,355	\$	10,537				
5	DAS Distribution	\$	42						
6	Transfer from License Plate Fund	\$	4,978	Φ	0.000	Φ		Φ	, ·
7	Donations		007.000	<u>\$</u>	3,000	\$	1	<u>\$</u>	7
8	Total Resources	<u>\$</u>	337,092	\$	535,651	\$	910,791	\$	813,458
9	Expenditures:					A (AND 122 MINO)		W TO AN THE COLUMN	
10	Personal Services - wages and beneftis	\$	239,874	\$	429,218	\$	729,497	\$	649,164
11	Personal Travel In State	\$	2,928	\$	4,000	\$	7,950	\$	7,950
12	State Vehicle Operation	\$	2,655	\$	2,400	\$	3,747	\$	3,747
13	Depreciation on Vehicle	\$	2,760	\$	2,760	\$	14,460	\$	14,460
14	Personal Travel Out of State	\$	7,034	\$	5,500	\$	6,173	\$	6,173
15	Office Supplies	\$	1,942	\$	2,060	\$	5,044	\$	5,044
16	Facility Maintenance Supplies (plumbing, electical, etc.)			\$	5	\$	22,274	\$	22,274
17	Equipment Maint.&Supplies (parts, gas, etc.)	\$	1,712	\$	3,360	\$	15,495	\$	8,495
18	Housing&Subsistence Supplies	\$	81	\$	55	\$	155	\$	155
19	Ag, Conservation & Horticult. Supplies (shrub)	\$	42			\$	13,065	\$	13,065
20	Other Supplies	\$	261	\$	60	\$	320	\$	320
21	Food (for schools & meetings)	\$	1,412	\$	1,080	\$	1,680	\$	1,680
22	Uniforms					\$	2,079	\$	2,079
23	Postage	\$	667	\$	2,500	\$	3,132	\$	3,132
24	Communications (phones, cell, etc.)	\$	5,055	\$	7,280	\$	13,910	\$	13,910
25	Rentals	\$	1,003	\$	446	\$	1,042	\$	1,042
26	Utilities	\$	2,933	\$	2,400	\$	9,759	\$	9,759
27	Professional & Scientific Services	\$	-	\$	-	\$	600	\$	600
28	Outside Services (FY07: 3 coordinators of RSVP)	\$	8	\$	50,000	\$	6,668	\$	6,668
29	Intra-State Transfers (FY06: RSVP)	\$	50,000			\$	-	\$	-
30	Advertising & Publicity					\$	7,557	\$	7,557
31	Outside Repairs/Service	\$	-	\$	3,074	\$	3,520	\$	3,520
32	Reimb.to Other Agencies (DAS, Public Defense)	\$	11,149	\$	10,406	\$	12,682	\$	12,682
3 3	ITS Reimbursements (DAS)	\$	387	\$	465	\$	865	\$	865
34	Workers Comp Reimbursement	\$	2,960	\$	3,978	\$	8,713	\$	8,713
35	Equipment > \$5,000					\$	15,000	\$	15,000
36	Equipment < \$5,000	\$	484	\$	294	\$	994	\$	994
37	I.T. Equipment,leases,software,supplies	\$	1,745	\$	3,110	\$	3,210	\$	3,210
38	State Aid (\$600/yr per War Orphan)			\$	1,200	\$	1,200	\$	1,200
39	Total Expenditures	\$	337,092	\$	535,651	\$	910,791	\$	823,458
40									
41	Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)		4.00		6.50		13.83		11.33

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

<u>Line</u>			FY06 <u>Actual</u>		FY07 Budget		FY08 Dept. Request		Y08 nor's Rec
42	IDVA War Orphans Educational Assistance V02 Appr	ropria	ition						
43	Resources:								
44	Appropriation (V02) *Reverts the end of FY08			\$	27,000	\$	27,000	\$	27,000
45									
46	Expenditures:	4.4.0.4		Φ.	07.000	Φ	07.000	Φ	07.000
47	State Aid (up to \$5,500/yr per War Orphan since 9/	11/01)	\$	27,000	Ъ	27,000	Ъ	27,000
48	IDVA Veterans Appreciation Program V11 Appropriat	tion (Severely Ini	ure	d Veterans)		·		
49	Resources:	,,,,,,	octorory my	u. o.	a votorano,				
50	Appropriation (V11)	\$	1,000,000			\$	1,000,000		
51	Balance Brought forward	*	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	\$	1,000,000	_	,,000,000	\$	1,000,000
52	3 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			cinlai	avi ness isstatiste finelike essi	E		Supplemen	
53	Expenditures:								vard to FY08
54	State Aid (up to \$2,500/qtr and 10,000/yr)			\$	1,000,000	\$	1,000,000	\$	1,000,000
55	Balance Carryforward	\$	1,000,000	ii S					
56 57	IDVA Veterans Home Ownership Assistance V12 App Resources:	oropr	iation						
58	Appropriation (V12)	\$	2,000,000			\$	2,000,000		
59	Up to \$5,000/veteran	,	_,,	F١	Y06 appropria	atio			
60	Transferred from Veterans Trust Fund							\$	2,000,000
61				be	een spent				
62	Expenditures:				•				
63	Intra-State Transfer (to Iowa Finance Authority)	\$	2,000,000			\$	2,000,000	\$ 	2,000,000
64 65	IDVA Veterans County Grants V14 Appropriation Resources:								
66	Appropriation (V14)			\$	1,000,000	2	1,000,000	\$	1,000,000
67	Appropriation (V14)			Ψ	1,000,000	Ψ	1,000,000	Ψ	1,000,000
68	Expenditures:								
69	Outside Services (Counties)			\$	1,000,000	\$	1,000,000	\$	1,000,000
70	IDVA Veterans Trust Fund V13 Appropriation								
71	Resources:								
72	Appropriation (V13)			\$	4,500,000	\$	5,000,000	\$	4,500,000
73									
74	Expenditures:			5 ten 10	on of the building to the second of the second	dana ramo	SPC S date in according to the control of the contr	Sampa, Argery, and comment	Bunner Stelle Stelle St. Paul Lieb J. School vert et derroit verse
75	Intra-State Transfer to Veterans Trust Fund 0750 (p	o.3)		\$	4,500,000	\$	5,000,000	\$	4,500,000

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

			FY06		FY07 FY08		FY08	
Line			<u>Actual</u>		Budget		Dept. Request	Governor's Rec
76	IDVA Veterans Trust Fund 0750 and Cemetery							
77	Resources:							
78	Balance Brought Forward	\$	1,001,508	\$	736,976	\$	5,341,576	\$ 5,341,576
79	Intra-State Receipts from V13			\$	4,500,000	\$	5,000,000	\$ 4,500,000
80	Interest	\$	32,836	\$	150,000	\$	150,000	\$ 150,000
81	Donations-Trust Fund	\$	2,225	\$	4,500	\$	4,500	\$ 4,500
82	Donations-Cemetery	\$	1,080	\$	500	\$	500	\$ 500
83	Land rent/sale of hay			\$	3,200	\$	3,200	\$ 3,200
84	Federal Support (DVA)-cemetery		-	\$	1,700,000	\$	5,101,855	\$ 5,101,855
85		\$	1,037,649	\$	7,095,176	\$	15,601,631	\$ 15,101,631
86	Expenditures:							
87	Transfer to DAS-cemetery (incl. fed. Funds)	\$	300,000	\$	1,403,570	\$	4,805,419	\$ 4,805,419
88	Highway Maint. Supplies	\$	673	\$	10	\$	673	\$ 673
89	Professional Services-cemetery			\$	10			
90	Equipment >\$5K -cemetery			\$	300,000			
91	Equipment <\$5K -cemetery			\$	10			
92	State aid-Trust Fund			\$	50,000	\$	50,000	\$ 50,000
93	Transfer to Veterans Home Ownership Program V12							\$ 2,000,000
94	Transfer to Veterans Enduring Freedom							\$ 2,000,000
95		\$	300,673	\$	1,753,600	\$	4,856,092	\$ 8,856,092
96								
97	Balance Carryforward	\$	736,976	\$	5,341,576	\$	10,745,539	\$ 6,245,539
		12.00	The state of the s	10,1000p.x2	garbathag baragag gyrayr ar a 1900ki. Ye ratir at bara		A still owes \$1 million	
98	Veterans Enduring Freedom							<i>(</i>
99	Resources:						*	
100	Transfer from Veterans Trust Fund							\$ 2,000,000
101					-			
102	Expenditures:							\$ 2,000,000

BIO

Patrick J. Palmersheim Executive Director Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs

Also serves as Vice President of twelve Midwestern states for the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) and Chairman for State Memorial Affairs sub-committee for all 50 states for NASDVA.

Over the past 5 years has worked hard to increase the amount of Federal VA benefits Iowa's veterans receive by providing more access to the services necessary to apply. From Jan 2002 thru Jan 2007 the Federal VA benefits have increased by over 375 million dollars annually into the State of Iowa.

As an Iowa native, he was born and raised in Northeast Iowa where he also served time as an elected mayor, on the city council and over 20 years on the volunteer fire department.

He is a Vietnam veteran serving two tours of duty with the US Air Force as a Flight Engineer. While serving a total of 9 years with the Air Force he was a crewmember on C47, C54, C118, C123, C130, C131 and B52 aircraft and earned:

Medals

- Air Medal with two bronze service stars
- Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
- Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze service stars
- Outstanding Unit Award
- Vietnam Campaign Ribbon
- Good Conduct Medal
- Small Arms Marksman Award
- National Defense Service Ribbon

He is an advocate for all veterans to ensure they are informed and receive all their entitled benefits. A driving force to make a State Veterans Cemetery in Iowa a reality and not just a dream to many veterans as it has been for many years.

Has introduced legislation in Iowa making it mandatory that all nursing homes accept VA medications in bulk form and also requiring all nursing homes in the state of Iowa must report names of veterans/widows or dependents to the Iowa Department of Veteran Affairs to ensure they are receiving their entitled benefits.

As Executive Director of the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA), first and foremost, I believe that we must fully honor our commitment to Iowa's veterans.

Secondly, I firmly believe that IDVA must always ensure stakeholder involvement, working hard to extend and expand the department's critically important relationships with all veterans' service organizations, county veterans service officers, key leaders, VA officials and many others.

Thirdly, I believe that IDVA must continue strong and positive legislative partnerships, at the state and federal levels and on both sides of the aisle, working in a non-partisan manner to ensure that the needs and the goals of Iowa's veterans are met.